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GENOMICS PROTEOMICS & BIOINFORMATICS

Editorial

Genomics, Proteomics & Bioinformatics (GPB) Has a New Start—Open Access

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We are now presenting to our readers the first issue of Volume 10 of *Genomics, Proteomics & Bioinformatics* (GPB). It is also the first issue for the new status.

GPB was founded in 2003 and published in English, focusing on research advancement in the fields of omics and bioinformatics. To ensure an international presence, GPB has its 30-50% editorial board members from outside China. From 2006, GPB has been co-published by Elsevier and Science Press, and its full-text articles are available for downloading from ScienceDirect. In 2011, GPB became a bimonthly journal. Annual downloading counts keep increasing with around 70% from outside China in 2011 (**Figure 1**). In addition, submissions from abroad account for 70% of the published articles after collaborating with Elsevier. The contributing authors for GPB are from around 30 countries and it is now a truly international journal. The top 5 contributing countries include China, USA, India, Japan and Canada. Among the top 20 most-cited articles (from 9 countries or regions), 60% are based on original research. Two articles published as methods are among the top 5 most-cited papers (*1*, *2*). The most-cited paper of all counts describes a software tool, KaKs_Calculator, which calculates nonsynonymous and synonymous substitution rates for quantifying molecular evolution (*1*). KaKs_Calculator was developed by Dr. Zhang Zhang, who is the newly-added Associate Editor-in-Chief in 2012. This article has been cited by journals in the filed of genomics such as *Genome Research* (*3*, *4*) and more general journals such as *Current Biology* (*5*) and *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of USA* (*6*).

In 2012, GPB has made a couple of significant changes. First, Dr. Songnian Hu was appointed as Executive Associate Editor-in-Chief and Drs. Zhang Zhang and Heng Zhu were invited as Associate Editors-in-Chief. Second, we are honored to have Genetics Society of China as the co-sponsor for GPB.

More importantly, we have just kicked out a bold step—making GPB an Open Access (OA) journal (OAJ). Open Access mode has been gradually becoming popular in the world of journal publication. Open Access has been gaining acceptance and greater respect from scientific communities. We have seen obvious successes in some leading OAJs. Open Access meets the need for free and fast shares of information and knowledge while keeps the standards with peer-reviewed scientific publication. Currently, there have been 7,558 OAJs from 117 countries registered in the directory of OAJ (DOAJ), reflecting a prevailing trend for OA publishing (**Figure 2A**). Among those, 32 journals are from China with 18 joining in 2011 (http://www.doaj.org/) (**Figure 2B**).

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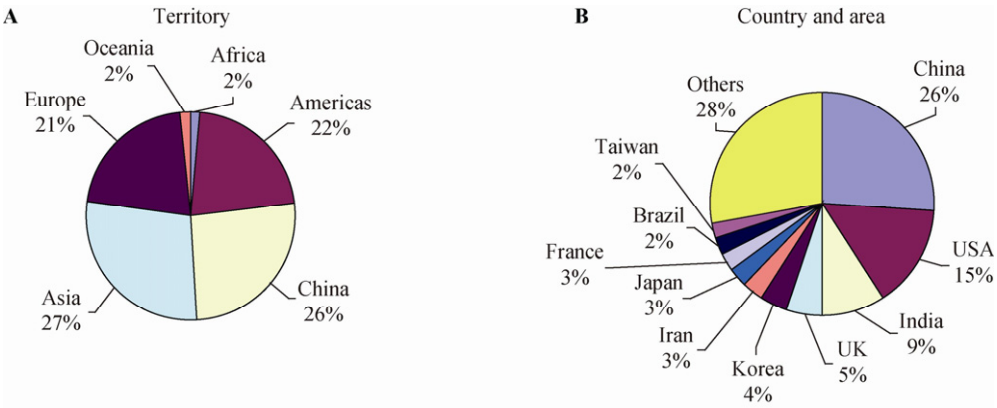

Figure 1 The distribution of full-text usage of GPB in 2011. The downloading of the full-text GPB articles is shown as a pie chart for different regions in terms of territory (**A**) and country or area (**B**). 74% of the downloading comes from regions outside Mainland China. China in both charts just refers to the territory for Mainland China and downloading from Mainland China was excluded, when calculating the usage in Asia (**A**).

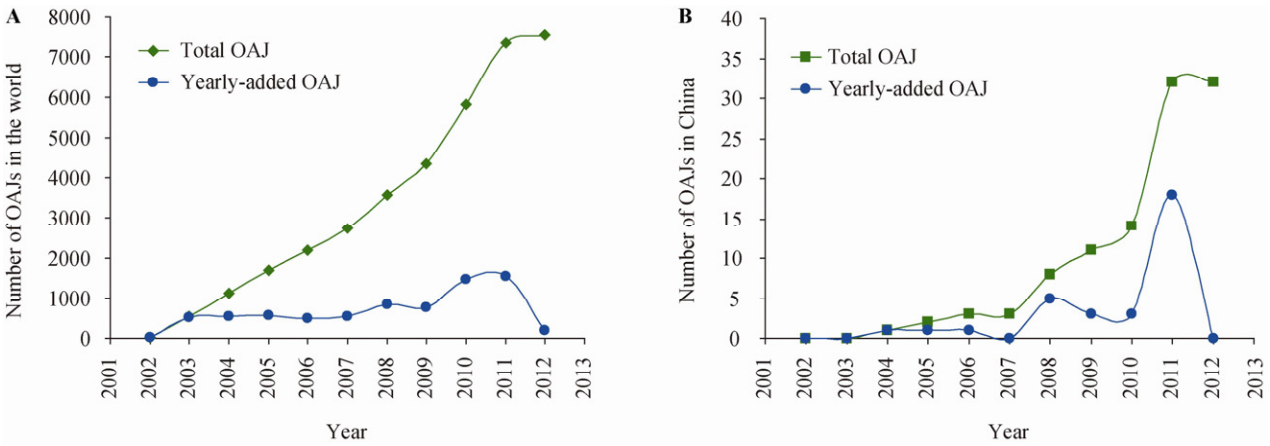

Figure 2 The growth of OAJs all over the world and in China. The numbers of the total OAJs and newly-added OAJs to DOAJ all over the world (**A**) and in China (**B**) during 2002-2012 were obtained from DOAJ website. China in these graphs just refers to the territory for Mainland China. OAJ stands for open access journal.

To promote Open Access in China, Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) launched the platform for OA Journals (OAJ) of CAS (CAS-OAJ) in October 2010 (http://www.oaj.cas.cn). CAS-OAJ provides the navigation to webpages of OAJs in China and retrieval of OA articles to promote scientific communication and improve influence of journals in China. Up till now, CAS-OAJ has included 172 journals printed in Chinese or English with complete or optional OA of selected articles. It is expected that more new OAJs will be launched in China for the time to come. In addition, there have been also many newly-converted OAJs.

By converting GPB to Open Access with Elsevier, all GPB articles will be freely accessible via ScienceDirect. Furthmore, starting from the 2nd issue in 2012, GPB is going to use the full service of Elsevier production line including copyediting, typesetting, proofreading and issue compilation. Moreover, GPB offers Article-in-Press and the accepted manuscripts will be freely accessible online ahead of its printed issue print for fast dissemination.

Timely dissemination is the key to registration and communication of scientific findings. Other than Article-in-Press, we also improve the review processing. All incoming submissions to GPB are screened by associate editors-in-chief or editorial board members with expertise matching. During the initial review, manuscripts are assigned into 3 tiers. These include

Tier A, qualified for publication with or without minor revisions; Tier B, poor quality or out of the scope of GPB; and Tier C for manuscripts falling in between A and B. Editors or board members need to make decisions in 48 hours which tier the subject manuscript belongs to. Manuscripts in Tier A are accepted and conversely, those in Tier B are subjected to rejection. Manuscripts in Tier C undergo further peer review due in maximally 3 weeks by reviewers recommended by the handling editors and await further decision. We hope that this fresh start and new ways of publishing are able to reduce the workload of both journal staff and reviewers, and to increase the speed of publishing. To help editors and reviewers make appropriate and comprehensive comments, we also plan to disclose their identity publicly together with the accepted manuscript when it is published.

Undoubtedly, the active involvement of GPB editorial board members and generous support from its loyal reviewers in the past years is vital to such operating model. A list of the reviewers from more than 30 countries is published online via ScienceDirect in this issue to thank for their generocity with manuscript review in 2011.

This year, we have added many new board members. Welcome on board! We look forward to working with all of you.

Let's work together to Go Publishing Better!

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